

Information Booklet 2023-2024



School Contact Details

Telephone: 01403 787200 **Email:** office@theweald.org.uk

Address: The Weald School, Station Road, Billingshurst, RH14 9RY

Please visit us at www.theweald.org.uk for more useful information for prospective parents, including detailed uniform lists, news stories and newsletters, term dates and much more.

Admissions Information

Visiting the School

Interested parents are welcome to make an appointment to visit the school. To arrange a visit please telephone the school on 01403 787200. Parents may also wish to meet with the relevant Head of House or other school personnel to discuss particular aspects of the school or their child's curriculum.

Open Day

There is an Open Evening which takes place in the autumn term. All parents of children in Years 5 and 6 of the primary schools within The Weald School catchment area receive an invitation via their school. Children attending primary schools outside of the catchment area are also very welcome to attend, and the relevant information can be sent on request.

Admissions Policy

There are 300 places available for September 2024, of which typically about 40 are allocated to families outside of our catchment area.

The procedures relating to transfer to secondary school are explained in detail in the West Sussex 'Information for Parents' booklet.

Admission to this school is coordinated by the West Sussex County Council Admissions Office. Application for places in Year 7 for September 2024 should be made online only at: www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions.

Applications for all other year groups should be made on an in-year application form which is available on the West Sussex website or by telephoning 03330 142903.

West Sussex Pupil Admissions Office (Northern Area)
County Hall North
Chart Way
Horsham
RH12 1XH

Telephone: 03330 142903
Email: admissions.north@westsussex.gov.uk



Transition to The Weald

We have an extensive programme of activities and events to ensure that new students very quickly feel part of The Weald Community. Many students will already be familiar with The Weald through our locality outreach projects run in conjunction with our local primary schools. We then host our 'Welcome Day' for new students in June together with a parents' and carers' 'Welcome Evening' where all key information is shared and you are able to meet key staff.

On joining The Weald in September, students quickly become part of our community as they bond with students from older year groups within our vertical tutor groups and students within their House. They mix across the Year 7 community through their learning groups, year assemblies with their Head of Year and in their dedicated Year 7 social time areas. There is always someone nearby who is keen to lend a hand or answer a question.

The School Day

Mornings	8.45 (Registration) to 12.50
(Break)	(10.50 to 11.10)
(Lunch)	(12.50 to 13.25)
Afternoons	13.25 to 15.05
Buses depart	15.15
Late buses depart	16.30 (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

The day is divided into six fifty minute teaching periods which may be joined as ‘doubles’ in some subjects. We work on a ten day timetable. Relationships, Health & Development Education (RH) is taught across the school. Students in Years 7, 8 and 11 have one lesson of RH per week, students in other year groups have one lesson per fortnight. Assemblies occur weekly and tutor periods daily. During break and lunchtimes students are supervised by teaching staff, clearly visible in hi-viz vests. They may use our wide range of facilities and most students take this time as an opportunity to attend a club or go to the library, play ball games on the all weather pitch, or meet in the picnic areas. The playing fields may also be used in good weather.

A wide choice of food is available at both morning break and lunchtime from both canteens and the ‘Snack Shack’. Our delicious daily menu includes hot and cold dishes with vegetarian and vegan options, sandwiches and rolls, which can be eaten at outside picnic tables or in the canteen.

Travel Arrangements

As we are a rural school, many of our students travel by bus or car, and the majority of our students enter the campus from the west of our site. Students who live in Billingshurst and walk to school can enter from either side, but must use the marked crossing points. Parents who bring their children by car must deliver and collect them in Station Road or Forge Way. Parents must not park or drop off in the bus lane or in the main school car park. When using Station Road, students must cross either at the primary school, which has a patrol crossing, or at the pelican crossing.

Many students travel to The Weald using school transport. Please visit West Sussex County Council School transport website (<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-and-college-transport/>) to check eligibility criteria and apply for a pass. All students are expected to follow any instructions given to them and follow the ‘Code of Conduct for School Transport’. Bus passes must be available for inspection on all journeys.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays there are ‘late buses’ provided for students who wish to attend after school activities. These depart at 4.30 pm. Please note that late buses do not follow the normal routes but have a limited number of dropping off points, usually in the centre of each village. Details can be found on our website under Parents/Bus Information.

School Uniform

It is important that students dress smartly and take pride in their appearance. The school is very proud that our students look smart at all times. In addition to wearing correct school uniform identified on our annually updated uniform list, students are expected to present with natural and tidy hair (no extreme styles or colours), no nail varnish or acrylic nails, natural and discreet make-up (eyebrows should be natural and not coloured), and no jewellery. Only a watch and one small pair of gold or silver studs (one per ear). These should be in the ear and not in the part of the ear that attaches to the face (tragus or anti tragus piercing). It is the school’s judgement as to whether these expectations have been met.

School Uniform Suppliers

Uniform and PE items are available from our school suppliers: (core items may also be available from other school wear suppliers, but they must be compliant with the school uniform policy).

Broadbridges

3 Piries Place, Horsham, RH12 1EH
horsham@broadbridges.co.uk
01403 259620 horsham@broadbridges.co.uk
www.broadbridges.co.uk

Sussex Uniforms

8 Bishopric, Horsham, RH12 1QR
sales@sussexuniforms.co.uk
01444 227066 sales@sussexuniforms.co.uk
www.sussexuniforms.co.uk

The School Curriculum



The Weald School follows the National Curriculum. With the removal of National Curriculum Levels for assessment at Key Stage 3, schools are now free to set their own assessment procedures and The Weald has introduced a 'mastery' style of teaching and learning in close collaboration with our local primary schools. In addition, all students follow a Relationships, Health & Development Education (RH) programme and upon entry into The Weald in Year 7, most students will be studying two languages (French plus either Spanish or German).

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11) is undertaken over three years. Students decide which GCSEs they would like to study in the spring term of Year 8, and begin their Key Stage 4 formal learning at the beginning of Year 9. Students take their Religious Studies examination at the end of Year 10, but all other subjects are taken at the end of Year 11. We offer a broad range of GCSE subjects, covering both the traditional academic subjects and many creative, practical and vocational subjects.

One week of work experience is organised during Year 10 to enable all students to gain insight into the world of work.

Sixth Form

The majority of our students choose to stay at The Weald and join our Sixth Form. In the Sixth Form there are currently over 30 subjects at GCE A Level. Vocational courses are also very popular. GCSE courses in Mathematics and English are also offered in Years 12 and 13 to enable students to achieve all their Level 2 qualifications. There are opportunities for students, as they progress through the Sixth Form, to undertake additional study at a higher level with the Extended Project Qualification. One week of work experience is organised during Year 12 to prepare students for the world of work. Please visit our website for our separate Sixth Form prospectus.



Inclusion

The Inclusion Department works closely with the respective departments to ensure that we meet the needs of all individuals. A wide range of resources are available and our highly skilled teaching assistants are allocated to support students within the classroom. Literacy and numeracy tutors work with students in small groups on an individual basis to address specific needs, and we offer a 'catch-up' programme to aid the transition to secondary school.

Homework

Learning to work independently is an essential part of every student's education. Students have access to the Google suite which allows them to use resources at home. Students have homework set online using the My Child At School (MCAS) portal. Parents/carers also have visibility of the homework set for each child via the MCAS portal. When homework is set by a teacher, deadlines appear in a calendar and the content contains copies of resources/useful links to help complete tasks. Teachers will also direct their classes to login to their specific class google classroom for further resources and information.

Students with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

At The Weald, we are committed to offering an outstanding school experience which ensures the best possible outcomes for all of our students, whatever their needs or abilities. We gather information about your child's needs from their primary school. Primary schools are visited by the Year 7 Director of Learning and the Director of Inclusion/SENDCo. We offer an enhanced transition programme for those students with high needs. All new entrants to The Weald are assessed for reading and spelling and we administer Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs).

We recognise that children's needs are best met through high quality teaching by subject specialist teachers, who take account of the needs of each child. Teachers at The Weald use SEND support strategies in their lessons and they will provide appropriate resources, plus a range of teaching styles to meet the needs of individual learners. All students who have a special educational need and/or disability (SEND) will have a Pupil Passport (profile page). The Pupil Passport includes information about particular needs and informs teachers of how the student learns best.

When and where necessary, an individual programme of support and intervention for your child will be provided. Within The Inclusion Department we have a Director of Inclusion, Deputy Director of Inclusion, Inclusion Manager, Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA), Literacy and Numeracy Tutors, and a team of Teaching Assistants (TAs) and SEND Mentors. We also have a dedicated Inclusion Room, called 'C3'; this consists of learning zones for intervention.

The school's new buildings have been built in accordance with the requirements of the DDA 1995, and include a lift which enables easy access for wheelchair users. Older blocks however are not fully accessible. A continuous assessment of the school's existing facilities takes place with a view to improving access when finances permit. Risk assessments are carried out to ensure that students with disabilities who are admitted to the school can play a full part in school life.

For further information, please refer to our SEND Policy and Local Offer on the school's website.

Sport at The Weald



The Weald offers a very extensive range of sporting activities both within the curriculum and as extra-curricular activities. Competitive sport is strongly encouraged and a full programme of inter-house and inter-school matches and events is arranged each term. Full details of the PE curriculum can be found on our school website www.theweald.org.uk.

Sports Facilities

The Weald School has an excellent range of sporting facilities and extensive sports fields.

Indoor: Large sports hall, gymnasium with climbing wall, fitness suite (Sixth Form use only).

Outdoor: All-weather pitch for hockey and football, two all-weather cricket pitches, three rugby and three football pitches, MUGA (multi use games area) for netball, tennis and outdoor basketball, 400m athletics track, three rounders pitches, jumping areas for long jump and triple jump, throwing area for javelin, shot and discus, cricket pitch and four cricket nets, four netball and four tennis courts. There is also a four-lane swimming pool adjacent to the school.

Assemblies & Spiritual and Moral Education

The staff of The Weald School regard the spiritual and moral development of their students as the individual responsibility of each teacher, regardless of subject discipline. Staff, both teaching and non-teaching, recognise that it is the strength of day to day relationships which determine the depth of respect and caring that students show to fellow students, staff and to others in our wider school community.

Assemblies are an important part of life at The Weald. Even though we are a large school, every Friday we are currently still able to draw the majority of the whole school community together for an assembly. The rest of the week includes house assemblies or year group assemblies. These events are an opportunity to reflect on life and events beyond the classroom.

The Weald - Ethos and Values

OPPORTUNITY

Challenge & support
High expectations & empathy
Rigour & optimism

COMMUNITY

Mutual respect
Working together
All stakeholders engaged

Our school ethos is about opportunity and community: we want everyone in our community (students, staff, parents/carers and governors) to work together harmoniously towards excellence by grasping opportunities within a supportive environment.

As a school, we value all students and their education equally and seek to promote personal achievement and the realisation of each child's potential through a broad, balanced range of experiences. We know that children make the best progress, both academically and pastorally, when parents, students and schools work effectively together. On joining the school you will be given our 'home/school agreement' which will clarify the school's expectations of our students and your expectations of The Weald so that together we can help our children achieve the high aspirations you expect us to set. Our Weald Character Framework, written with parents, governors, staff and most importantly students, sets out our aims as a school where we value the development of young people's character strengths as much as their academic progress.

The Weald Community

Students at The Weald feel supported and safe, are recognised as individuals and are challenged to excel. They are enthusiastic about their learning and take responsibility for their own progress. High academic achievement is important at The Weald, but we place equal value on educating children to be outstanding citizens ready for life beyond school.

Rewards and Recognition

Good conduct, effort and academic achievement are rewarded through the house points credit system in Years 7 to 11, which culminates in a termly and annual presentation of The Weald House Cup. House points are awarded for resilience, achievement and progress, consideration, engagement and enthusiasm and contribution to the community. Students from all year groups are also recognised through regular commendations and the presentation of Gold Awards which takes place annually in the summer.

Pastoral Care

On entry to the school, students are allocated to tutor groups within one of the school's six houses: Attenborough, Blackman, DaVinci, Mercury, Seacole and Thompson. Students in Years 7 to 10 are in mixed ('vertical') tutor groups to create a family-style community and Year 11 are in single year group tutor groups to ease their transition into post-16 learning.

Form tutors and student peer mentors support and guide students throughout their school career, building up a sound knowledge and understanding of the qualities and needs of each of the young people in their care. Heads of House meet regularly to monitor student progress. Form tutors, lead tutors and Heads of House are usually your first point of contact should you have any concerns about your child. Their main concerns are day-to-day discipline, punctuality, uniform, friendships, social behaviour and involvement in school life. In addition, there are Directors of Learning for each Key Stage, responsible for monitoring each student's progress.

Working Together

We know from our long experience of successful transition how important it is that school and home work together. Once settled we host our 'Six Weeks In' event to gather feedback and share successes. Our newsletter 'e-Weald', Twitter, Instagram and Facebook pages regularly celebrate student achievements. To enhance understanding and knowledge of the modern school experience we run 'Parent Learning Walks' for each Key Stage. Parents are able to come into school, learn more about what we do and sit in on a variety of lessons. We welcome feedback from parents and carers. Each Wednesday evening there is a senior staff surgery and each half term we invite parents and carers to join us for a Parent Voice meeting, where we present key issues and answer questions.



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